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ACTION MCT-02

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05  
ARA-16 NSAE-00 SY-05 PM-09 /063 W  
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R 081602Z SEP 81  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0852  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN  
USCINCLANT/NORVA

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 6538

EO 12065: RDS-2 9/08/01 (FRIEDMAN, T.B.) OR-P  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, AR  
SUBJECT: [REDACTED] CONCERN ABOUT TERRORIST THREAT

1. [REDACTED] THERE HAS BEEN A STIRRING OF PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE POSSIBLE REAPPEARANCE IN ARGENTINA OF TERRORISTS. ON SEPTEMBER 6 A LOCALLY-RESPECTED, LEADING NEWSPAPER COLUMNIST REPORTED THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF MONTONEROS HAVE MANAGED TO RE-INFILTRATE THE COUNTRY. THE COLUMNIST LINKED THIS INFORMATION WITH THE STORY THAT 400 TERRORISTS HAD ENTERED CHILE RECENTLY, "ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL ARGENTINE ESTIMATES." THE COLUMNIST ALSO WOVE INTO HIS COLUMN PRESS REPORTS THAT ON THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 4 THE AUDIO PORTION OF A TV PROGRAM IN SOME WORKING CLASS BUENOS AIRES NEIGHBORHOODS WAS BRIEFLY INTERRUPTED BY A CLANDESTINE BROADCAST OF PERONIST SONGS AND SLOGANS. IN THE PAST SUCH CLANDESTINE BROADCASTS WERE CARRIED OUT BY MONTONEROS.

2. [REDACTED] COMMENT: WE ARE SKEPTICAL OF

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THE REPORTS OF RENEWED MONTONERO ACTIVITY. ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES HAVE REPEATEDLY OVER THE LAST YEAR

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ASSERTED TO US THAT THE TERRORISTS HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED FROM ARGENTINA. AS RECENTLY AS LAST AUGUST, BOTH ARMY INTELLIGENCE AND THE PRESIDENTIAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIDE) REPORTED THAT THOSE REMNANTS OF TERRORISTS WHO EXISTED IN ARGENTINA IN EARLY 1980 HAD BEEN DETECTED AND NEUTRALIZED. THERE IS NO RELIABLE INFORMATION TO CONTRADICT THESE CLAIMS.

3. [REDACTED] THE ORIGINS OF THE CLANDESTINE RADIO BROADCASTS, AS WELL AS MONTONERO WALL PAINTINGS WHICH AN EMBOFF SAW ON A VISIT TO MENDOZA, MAY WELL BE TRACED TO THE SECURITY FORCES. THE MOST BENIGN INTERPRETATION IS THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES ARE DESIGNED TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT FEND OFF THE RISING DEMANDS FOR AN END TO THE STATE OF SIEGE BY DEMONSTRATING THAT THE SECURITY THREAT STILL EXISTS. ANOTHER EXPLANATION FOR THE RAISING OF THE TERRORIST SPECTER IS THAT ELEMENTS IN THE SECURITY FORCES, ACTING ON THEIR OWN, ARE TRYING TO IMPEDE THE POLITICAL OPENING NOW BEING NEGOTIATED BY PRESIDENT VIOLA. SHLAUDEMAN

[REDACTED]

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